

ITTI AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DUAL DIPLOMA

MOVING TOWARDS A BRIGHT FUTURE



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AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL

The **American High School Dual Diploma programme** allows students to obtain two different high school diplomas by carrying out studies simultaneously at two schools: one in the country where they reside through presential studies, and the other, American studies, by following a virtual academic course. This permits students to obtain the US high school diploma which has identical value to one awarded at a presential course in the USA.

American High School is a fully accredited virtual high school in the USA which brings together students who cannot perform presential studies for different reasons. They may be students whose parents need geographic mobility, students who are athletes and need to compete regularly, students whose parents (or themselves) are famous, students with reduced mobility, among others. The school has more than 2500 students and now, thanks to American High School Europe, it is also open to students worldwide.



Over and above the obtainment of a second high school certificate, the programme has been designed with the aim of providing an additional advantage to the students who complete it, giving them a collection of unique tools which will allow them to face the challenges of a more demanding globalized market where not only the local talent competes, but also other candidates from all over the world.

With a programme of studies where educative innovation is mixed with the use of new technologies, determination and supervision, a superior preparation is guaranteed to all students who wish to study university courses in their own country, USA or any other corner of the world.

Academic excellence begins with the teachers, native professionals with high qualifications who will guide students through the everyday steps of the programme. These highly qualified teachers, together with supervision by the programme supervisor in the students' home country, strengthen institutional support and assure parents that their children will successfully obtain their goals.

PHILOSOPHY

American High School offers an innovative e-learning programme which, by employing new technologies in education, allows students to obtain their US High School Diploma from their home or educational centre. Therefore, the student will be able to interact at any moment, anywhere and on any electronic device (PC, laptop, tablet, mobile phone, ...) in a safe, English, international learning environment, making possible what would be unthinkable some years ago.

At American High School, the syllabus, structure and demands are kept intact as in a bricks and mortar American high school, with the difference being that there is no physical attendance to the educational centre on the part of the students.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

The programme begins when students are 14 years of age as it is designed to be taken with a certain degree of comfort over two or three years, in such a way that students simultaneously study their subjects at their national educational centre along with 2 to 4 American subjects per year.





PROGRAMME

OF REQUIRED STUDIES

To obtain their US High School Diploma, students will need to obtain 24 credits. However, the student will not need to take all of those 24 credits as a high percentage of them will be validated on completion of the subject in their own country. Consequently, they will only need to take eight subjects to obtain seven credits (this may vary slightly depending on the study plan of each country on country). Therefore, candidates will only need to achieve those additional credits together with the ones they obtain in their home country. It is important to note that four of these credits are directly related to the improvement of the student's level of English using a proven methodology for improving comprehension and fluency.



WHICH ACADEMIC SUBJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME?

The American High School Dual Diploma Programme allows the validation of up to 17 out of the 24 credits needed to obtain a US High School Diploma in the state of Florida (depending on the country where the student is studying). This means, the completed credits obtained in the student's country will be awarded to the student so that they only need to complete seven extra credits at American High School, corresponding to eight compulsory subjects. The following table shows all the subjects included in the programme:

ENGLISH & LITERATURE 9 1 CREDIT	AMERICAN HISTORY 1 CREDIT
ENGLISH & LITERATURE 10 1 CREDIT	WORLD HISTORY 1 CREDIT
ENGLISH & LITERATURE 11 1 CREDIT	AMERICAN ECONOMY 0.5 CREDIT
ENGLISH & LITERATURE 12 1 CREDIT	AMERICAN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT 0.5 CREDIT

* It may be necessary for students to study extra subjects depending on the school syllabus in the country where the student is studying.



DISTRIBUTION OF SUBJECTS PER YEAR:

1ST YEAR

English & Literature 9 + World History

2ND YEAR

English & Literature 10 + English & Literature 11 + American Economy

3RD YEAR

English & Literature 12 + American History + American Politics and Government

ADVANTAGES FOR STUDENTS

KNOWLEDGE AND COMMAND OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The American High School Diploma Dual programme helps students to develop technological skills. A greater interest level and motivation, better learning autonomy, an interdisciplinary nature, digital and audio-visual literacy, development of information search and selection skills, or even a positive teacher-student communication are just some of the many advantages that this virtual learning programme offers and which facilitate the students' integration to this emerging world which is constantly changing and transforming. A world where the command of new technologies is vital.

IMPROVEMENT OF ENGLISH LEVEL

It is undeniable that English is known in many parts of the world as the "lingua franca" of the global economy, in business, technology, science and aviation and its influence is greater than ever in the XXI century.

The Dual Diploma programme promotes English learning. All subjects are taught in this language and interactions between teachers and international students are established in English. This creates an extremely positive immersion environment to improve communicative skills, and increases motivation and confidence when using the language. This is an essential characteristic of any programme seeking to achieve a high linguistic level.

REWARD FOR DETERMINATION

The learning of different materials and subjects which would not normally be accessible to students, together with a large capacity for work and a high English level, provides students with a wide range of academic possibilities. A high school student wishing to attend an American university will have advantages, when submitting their application, over students who have not shown this command of English and other academic achievements.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

The American High School Dual Diploma also tests the ability of students to work in different cultural environments. This cultural exchange begins the very first moment that students begin their course, write reports and communicate with their native teachers in English.

AHS LOUNGE - SOCIAL CLUBS

As well as interaction with American teachers, American High School offers students the chance to participate in AHS Lounge, a social platform which, among other things, allows students to communicate with other students from all over the world, to read student blogs and to write their own and to join the many diverse interest clubs and groups:

This is certainly one the strong points of the programme, giving it extra added value. It offers students the possibility to join student clubs and groups in which the students will be in contact with other participants from the same club with similar likes and interests (journalism, cookery, photography, music, gaming, getting ready for college...) in a safe environment which is exclusively for American High School students and its teachers. Some of these clubs are teacher led and have a weekly open house where all the members of the club can meet, share ideas and discuss projects.

In this way, the programme helps to develop the capacity for flexibility and adaptation to different ways of working, situations and environments, as well as developing strong aptitudes and qualities to decisively face the future in an enthusiastic and well prepared manner.



ADVANTAGES FOR PARENTS

American High School Dual Diploma opens new horizons to the future of your children, allowing them the possibility to access prestigious universities not only in the USA, but also worldwide.

It encourages maturity, independence and self-management in students, teaching them to acquire responsibilities and to be more competitive, helping them to enter an employment world which is more and more demanding and which is in a process of constant change and transformation.

Internationalisation of studies: The American High School Dual Diploma programme offers the possibility to study international courses in an easy, comfortable and flexible way, avoiding the expensive costs of studying abroad.

Access to new teaching methods: Students have the chance of getting to know, first hand, the workings of one of the most highly acclaimed education system in the world.

Preview of higher education: In the American High School Dual Diploma Programme, similar teaching methods are applied to those students face at university or any other mobility programme such as the Erasmus Programme,



ADVANTAGES FOR SCHOOLS

The educational centre which includes the American High School Dual Diploma programme in its educational services offering, joins a new study trend which is becoming noticeable in charter and private schools all over the world.

It provides new tools to the syllabus without the need to modify the existing plan.

It brings more sense and logic into bilingual and plurilingual programmes.


It supports students in their efforts to find employment abroad, giving them competitive tools and encouraging their effort and independence.

American High School Dual Diploma is a prestigious, recognized, international programme.

ENROLMENT IN THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES:

- ▶ ENROLMENT IN UP TO 8 SUBJECTS FOR THE OBTAINMENT OF 7 CREDITS
- ▶ COURSE DURATION UP TO 3 YEARS
- ▶ VIRTUAL TUTORIAL MEETINGS WITH TEACHERS FROM THE USA
- ▶ EXAM REGISTRATION
- ▶ VALIDATION + TRANSLATION OF TRANSCRIPTS
- ▶ ACCESS TO THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL LOUNGE & SOCIAL CLUBS
- ▶ MONITORING BY PROGRAMME SUPERVISOR IN HOME COUNTRY
- ▶ ALL EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL FOR THE COURSE
- ▶ US HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
- ▶ GRADUATION CEREMONY





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STUDENTS

IN THE DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

RESPONSABILITIES OF THE STUDENT

The student is expected to maintain the appropriate pace of the course during the academic year and must make a genuine effort to achieve the best results, dedicating an average of 4 to 5 hours per week. In case of any difficulty, the student should inform their teacher who will give the necessary help and orientation.

PROJECT SUBMISSION

Students will submit exercises, projects, tasks, exams, tests and quizzes to the Learning Management System (LMS). Once the teacher has corrected this work, the students will be able to see their results, marks and comments from the teacher through this system.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION RULES

Attendance, participation and performance of the student will be supervised to guarantee that students fulfil the obligatory attendance rules and they progress adequately.

Attendance is measured by the time the student is connected to the LMS, their contributions made via online connections, the presentation of tests, projects and tasks and email messages sent and received via the platform. Every time the student opens a course, participation is registered automatically and time spent in each area is recorded.





TEACHER-STUDENT VIRTUAL COMMUNICATION

AVAILABILITY OF TEACHERS AND RESPONSE TIME

In the virtual learning environment, teacher-student communication regularly demands commitment beyond that of the traditional way of studying as interaction is vital to the success of the programme.

Instant messaging and emails are considered fundamental and they are expected to be used on a regular basis, and there should also be regular oral communication with American High School teachers. This prepares the student for the reality of the employment world which adults face daily.

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American High School teachers have established timetables and will be available for students and parents on the days and at the times entered on their official timetables which will be from Monday to Friday from 15.00 to 23.00 (CET) with a maximum response time of around 20 minutes (outside working hours 24-48 hours).

During these hours, the teachers will answer telephone calls, emails, Skype and instant messages as soon as possible. As well as this, the school in the students' home town or programme supervisor will establish regular tutoring sessions to help those students enrolled in the programme.

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CONTACT

Email addresses, Skype ID, phone numbers and other means of contact with the teachers, along with log in information will be issued to the student.



REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DIPLOMA

The achievement of the US High School Diploma will be subject to the obtainment of the required established number of credits.

Academic marks in all the subjects studied are based on the development level of the student regarding educational goals and academic course skills. Therefore, the performance and knowledge shown towards aspects relating to projects, online tests and other online assessments during the course will all be assessed by the teachers who will determine the grades and/or the student's promotion.

Progress reports and informative bulletins will be the main means of communication of the progressions and achievements of the student towards promotion.



RESPONSABILITIES OF PARENTS AND TUTORS

As parents or tutors of students at American High School, it is extremely important to know the responsibilities of this role. Parents are expected to control and supervise the progress of the students, encouraging them on the administration of their time in an efficient way and avoiding distractions common amongst young people today.

This parental control will be backed up by the teachers, the programme supervisor and the head of the programme, who will inform them on their progress and will contact them when necessary, via email.



HOMOLOGATION

Students will be enrolled with American High School under the American High School Dual Diploma Programme.

These courses, are completely homologated by the US Department of Education and they offer the chance of achieving a private US High School Diploma from American High School in the State of Florida.

The approval of the syllabus and its adaptation to the regulations and requirements of educational institutions and American High School's accreditation by "advancED SACS" together with the fact that the teachers are certified by the Florida Education Department and other US states, give this US high school diploma identical value to any other US high school diploma a student may obtain by following a presential academic course in the USA.

The American High School US high school diploma has the same validity in all US territory, providing the possibility of applying for a place at any US University or College without the need to sit a TOEFL exam, (only SAT test will be required) and therefore it is recognised in the rest of the world.





SOME OF THE UNIVERSITIES WHERE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

UCLA

BROWN

DUKE UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

DE PAUL UNIVERSITY

EMBRYRIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

TEXAS A & M

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

TULANE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

US COASTGUARD ACADEMY

NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL DUAL DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

The importance of new technologies has been, and indeed is, an unquestionable matter. Its influence and vertiginous development is felt in all areas of society. These technological advances oblige educational institutions to follow the rhythm of social demands which characterise these modern times.

This programme is the definitive tool towards the maximum knowledge of technological skills where ethical, scientific and social abilities are also relevant. Furthermore, it prepares students for the real working world which they will face in the years to come.

HOW DOES E-LEARNING WORK?

Communication is one of the keys to success of the American High School Dual Diploma Programme and the virtual learning environment. Therefore, communication between teachers and students will be constant and fluid. Every subject is taught by qualified, competent teachers with whom students can communicate via email, phone, instant messaging or video conference. All these means of communication are essential and expected to be regularly used.

Learning is developed on a digital platform where students have access to a personal storage “cloud”, where they will have access to the syllabus, exercises and academic contents. They will send their exercises, activities, projects and tests to the Learning Management System (LMS). Exams and tests will also be sat via this system.





TEACHERS

The professionalism and qualifications of American High School teachers is another of the keys to the success of the programme. The interaction between participants and teachers should be constant and fluid, making students express themselves in English. Teachers' duties will include:

- ▶ **HOLDING TUTORIAL MEETINGS**
- ▶ **SOLVING POSSIBLE DOUBTS**
- ▶ **BEING ACCESSIBLE FOR STUDENTS**
- ▶ **HOLDING MASTER CLASSES**

The different courses of the Dual Diploma Programme are taught by qualified, competent, native teachers with high-quality teaching tools and an excellent syllabus updated according to legislative changes.

Students will be able to have live sessions with teachers which are fundamental for detecting the difficulties a student may be having, to strengthen knowledge, to clarify possible doubts and to practice their English.



MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

The control and monitoring of students both by programme supervisors and American teachers is extremely meticulous. Parents will be periodically informed of the students' progress by the local programme supervisor who will meet all students regularly to help them resolve doubts and different questions related to the programme. At the same time, the local programme supervisor and American teachers will continuously monitor the achievements and progress and will contact students from time to time to make sure that they successfully follow and complete the programme, meeting all deadlines.

Parents will have access to the local programme supervisor and students' assessments. Like this, they will be fully informed.

The assessment of students will be continuous through the observation of their progress in the fulfillment of their tasks and the educational goals of each module. Students must successfully fulfill tasks, projects and online tests and quizzes. The grade of performance and command over all these aspects will be assessed by the teachers.

Marks will range from A to F. A being the highest mark and F being the lowest. Students will obtain a C mark as a minimum in every subject. If not the coursework or subject will need to be repeated.

Students are expected to make a genuine effort similar to other quality extracurricular activities such as at a music conservatory or an official language school. Their determination is essential to the success of the programme.

